



# Social Welfare Law Fair

A unique opportunity to sample a wide range of current social welfare law issues. The keynote speakers and over 15 workshops cover debt, homelessness, land attachment, education law, discrimination law, criminal injuries compensation, death, inability to deal with personal or financial affairs, compulsory mental health detention and treatment, family law, mortgage rights and specialist asylum issues to name but a few.

There is no better way of keeping up-to-date, hearing the arguments, meeting the people!

**Thursday 30th November 2006**

10.00 to 16.15 CPD: 5 hours

**Venue: Logie Baird Suite, Quality Hotel Glasgow, 99 Gordon Street, Glasgow**

Cost: £35/£25 (includes lunch) bulk bookings/concessions (write in application)

FREE to all Law Centres (staff, volunteers, management) and Law Centre Steering Committees (write in application) and FREE to students (limited places).

Want to run a stall or a workshop: free? Open to all advice organisations.  
Contact Susan Clark, LSA, 0141 354 1274 or [seminars@lsa.org.uk](mailto:seminars@lsa.org.uk)

Organised by Scottish Association of Law Centres.

Sponsored by SALC and the Law Society of Scotland.

Bookings to Legal Services Agency.

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# Programme

Thursday 30th November 2006

09.30 - 10.00	Registration and coffee
10.00	<b>Welcome:</b> by <b>Felix Mulholland</b> , Chair, Scottish Association of Law Centres and Treasurer, Legal Services Agency.
10.00 - 10.15	<b>Introduction:</b> Where is policy on social welfare law service provision going in general and, in particular, with regard to law centres and advice centres? What are the policy challenges for the future? What vision could we have for the next 10 years? by <b>Paul D. Brown</b> , Principal Solicitor, Legal Services Agency.
10.15 - 10.45	<b>Keynote speaker:</b> Homelessness and preventing homelessness: How do we get to 2012? by <b>James Jopling</b> , Head of External Relations, Shelter Scotland. Scotland's politicians have promised that by 2012 everyone should have a home. Homelessness is caused by relationship breakdown, domestic violence and debt amongst other reasons, all of which are problems of more than just housing. How can organisations such as Shelter work with others to play a part in delivery of this landmark commitment?
10.45 - 11.00	Discussion
11.00 - 11.15	Tea/Coffee
11.15 - 11.45	<b>Keynote speaker:</b> A view from the Courts: social welfare law case developments by <b>Derek O'Carroll</b> , Advocate. Derek's practice includes a wide range of public and administrative law including social security, housing, education, immigration, mental health and discrimination. He was previously a solicitor for many years and has worked in three law centres and an advice centre.
11.45 - 13.15	<b>Workshops (repeated)</b> Please book on the day.
13.15 - 14.15	<b>Lunch (provided)</b>
14.15 - 15.45	<b>Workshops</b> Please book on the day.
15.45 - 16.15	<b>Plenary session: Comments by a number of law centre solicitors:</b> <b>Mike Dailly</b> on complaints and accountability; <b>Angus McIntosh</b> on legal aid; <b>June Fraser</b> on children; <b>Amanda Pringle</b> on money advice; <b>Joe Bryce</b> on disability discrimination; <b>Iain Nisbet</b> on education; <b>Julie Smith</b> update on possible changes to criminal injuries compensation.

## Workshops

11.45 - 13.15 and 14.15 - 15.45

- Working with women and children asylum seekers** is legally complex, subject to draconian time limits and involves complex gender sensitive, religious and cultural issues. The workshop will look at these needs. The legal support implications of claiming asylum by these vulnerable client groups will be addressed. June Fraser and Jennifer Escott, Solicitors, Legal Services Agency's Women and Children's Department.
- Casework Advice and Information System (CAIS)** – is a unique online case management scheme aimed at debt, money advice and benefits. The workshop will describe the system from the voluntary sector viewpoint of a user and well as the provider's perspective. There will be a demonstration. Amanda Pringle, Principal Solicitor, Drumchapel Law & Money Advice Centre and Sharon MacPherson, Development & Regeneration Services, Glasgow City Council.
- Criminal Injuries Compensation for Survivors of Domestic Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Rape.** Not only is this a complex field legally but, additionally, involves difficult gender sensitive and, on occasion, mental health issues. It is a field that may be subject to major reform. Julie Smith, Solicitor of Castlemilk Law Centre's Criminal Injuries Compensation Project will describe the law and practice as well as what may happen to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme in the future.
- Difficult debt enforcement & homelessness issues.** Homeowners are often threatened with bankruptcy – and possible homelessness – for debts as low as £2,000. This workshop describes defending sequestration proceedings and updates on the new Bankruptcy & Diligence etc., (Scotland) Bill, particularly the proposed 'Land Attachment' provisions. It will also examine other debt issues including the major success in recovering unfair bank charges as well as a forthcoming Bank Charges etc., Bill. Mike Dailly, Principal Solicitor, Govan Law Centre.
- Defending Eviction.** A guide to all aspects of defending eviction with reference to recent developments in the law regarding Minutes for Recall and the role of Qualifying Occupiers. Claire Burnie, Solicitor, Paisley Law Centre.
- Developments in discrimination law.** This workshop will look at all the main discriminations: sex, race, religion as well as the new age discrimination regulations due to come in force October 2006. There will be a particular reference to employment law. Margaret Dickson, Associate Solicitor, Govan Law Centre.
- Disability Discrimination:** New Rights. Next Monday (4th December) new key parts of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 come into force. These deal with public transport, landlord and tenant/housing. What are the issues, what are the likely causes of litigation? What aids and adaptations to let premises may be required? Joe Bryce, Solicitor, Legal Services Agency's Disability Rights Project.
- Education law update.** Keeping children in school and in the right school with the right resources is complex legally. This workshop will examine the most important recent developments with reference to statute and caselaw. Iain Nisbet, Solicitor & Co-ordinator of Govan Law Centre's Education Law Unit.
- The new Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006.** A general discussion on some of the reforms implemented by the Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006. Particular focus will be on Section 16 (Reversal of Wallis and substitution of 'appropriate date' for 'irrelevant date') when property transfer orders are sought and Section 24 when factors such as abuse can be taken into consideration when considering a contact order. Jackie Doyle, Principal Solicitor, East End Community Law Centre.
- Prevention of homelessness.** A partnership between Glasgow City Council, Govan Law Centre, Money Matters Advice Centre and Greater Pollok CABx. This workshop will look at this innovative approach and benefits from a wide range of inputs including Alistair Sharp, Project Worker, Lorraine Barrie, Solicitor, and Amy Niven, Trainee Solicitor, Govan Law Centre.
- Homelessness in the Twenty First Century:** Homelessness rights have improved, are improving and will get stronger still. This workshop will look at implementation on the 'Road to 2012'. Angus McIntosh, Principal Solicitor, Castlemilk Law Centre, which runs two projects on homelessness funded by Glasgow City Council.
- Adults with Incapacity:** there is now a strong raft of law and practice to provide protection, both financial and personal, for those suffering from any major incapacity whether it be mental health, dementia or brain injury. This workshop describes who may benefit, what the procedure is and the rights of relatives. Helen McGinty, Solicitor, Legal Services Agency's Mental Health Legal Representation Project (Edinburgh & Lothians).
- Mental Health (Care & Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003** has only recently come into force, setting up a new system of tribunals and new tests for compulsory detention and treatment among others. Potentially draconian powers (often abused in the past) are now subject to much heavier regulation. What is the system and how is it working? Ronnie Franks, Solicitor, Legal Services Agency's Mental Health Legal Representation Project (Strathclyde).
- Mortgage Rights:** those with mortgage arrears have a number of 'gambits'. These may include money and benefit advice, re-mortgaging, renegotiating or sale/downshifting. All these options can be followed through without the trauma of homelessness using the rights given by the Mortgage Rights Act (originally a law centre initiative). Jon Kiddie, Solicitor, Legal Services Agency.
- The importance of making a Will.** What happens to your assets when you die? Many people do not realise they have assets and not only make no provision for the future but do not realise that they should make a will for the benefit of cohabitants, stepchildren or others. Lindsay Paterson, Trainee Solicitor, Drumchapel Law & Money Advice Centre.
- The way Dundee North Law Centre approaches **rent arrears, income maximisation and housing benefit cases.** Peter Kinghorn, Principle Solicitor, Dundee North Law Centre.
- Basic employment law:** In part unpaid wages claims and small claims on employment law cases. Speaker from Dundee North Law Centre.



**Please direct all enquiries regarding seminars to:**

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In the case of multiple bookings it would be helpful to list names of the delegates attending the seminar. All bookings will be acknowledged to the address given on the booking form unless otherwise indicated. LSA's usual terms apply.

**About SALC**

Scottish Association of Law Centres is the representative organisation of all Scotland's community and user controlled law centres. Membership includes eight law centres with six associates. It enables centres to work together to:

- Promote understanding of the work of area and issue based law centre
- Generate a better understanding of the need for more secure funding and more development of law centres in Scotland
- To promote the 'Value for Money' delivered by law centres
- Highlight the range and extent of unmet legal need in Scotland
- Work with key partners such as local authorities, Scottish Executive, Scottish Legal Aid Board, voluntary and community organisations to develop law centres in Scotland

Contact SALC about its work (although not about this conference) through its Secretary:

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